

Appln No. 09/693,514
Amtd. Dated May 6, 2005
Response to Office action of March 14, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The issues raised are traversed and addressed below with reference to the relevant headings and paragraph numbers appearing under the Detailed Action of the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

We respectfully submit that the claims are novel and inventive in their original form.

In particular, Tabata et al is intended to allow users to use a paper document in a document information management system in the digital world and in particular to realise a hyper-text based system utilising paper (see for example column 2, lines 49 to 56).

In order to achieve this Tabata et al describes a system in which pages are printed with identity information to allow the location of dicons to be determined. A user can then interact with the printed page by marking the page in order to indicate the selection of the dicon. The page can then be scanned allowing correlated file information corresponding to the dicon to be retrieved.

Thus, the system utilises printed pages that have visual information and coded data preprinted thereon. The user then marks the page with the page being subsequently scanned. The scanned page is used to determine the correlated file information which is then printed.

Tabata et al does not at any stage disclose that the printing of the correlated file information may be performed on the same piece of media which was scanned. In fact, examining the above discussed intention of the application, we believe it is evident that the system will print the correlated file information on a separate page, allowing the user to then interact with this separate page.

In this regard, we would highlight that the pages used in Tabata et al, as shown for example in Figure 5, require the presence of document information and coded data when the user interacts with the document by providing marks 51 thereon. The document is subsequently scanned to select the identified hyperlink. It is evident from Figure 5 that the page does not include space on which to print further information and this is therefore necessarily provided on a separate document. As a result of this, Tabata et al does not at any stage specify that there is provided a printer that both prints and senses information on the same media.

We therefore respectfully submit that claim 1 as previously presented was therefore novel and inventive as there was nothing within the prior art to teach or suggest that the printer senses the identity information of the one or more print areas. In other words, the printer senses the identity information from the same print area on which it prints the document information.

There is nothing to suggest that such a process would be considered by Dymetman, and we therefore respectfully submit that claim 1 was novel and inventive over both Tabata et al and Dymetman.

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However, in order to obtain speedy allowance, claim 1 has been revised to specify that the printer includes a print mechanism and to clarify that the print mechanism prints on print areas provided in a print area path, and that the sensor senses the identity information from the print areas provided in the print area path.

A basis for these amendments can be found for example in the original claim 37 which explicitly requires the print mechanism, and that the printing and sensing is done whilst the print area is following the print area path.

We believe that these amendments further clarify the distinctions over the prior art. In this regard, the printing of the document information and sensing of the identity information occurs when the print area is on the same print path to thereby assist in printing and sensing the same print area.

In contrast, there is no such requirement to print and sense in the same print area in Tabata et al, and hence no such physical arrangement is described. In this regard, having examined the disclosure in Tabata et al we note that in column 25, line 4 to line 9 the system describes merely that a scanner and a printer may integrated into one device. There is no disclosure as to how this is achieved and it is therefore submitted that these may merely be placed in a common housing, for example in the same way that the a photocopier may include both a scanning unit and a printing unit.

However, as these operate as separate independent units, this does not allow printing of information onto a print area, and sensing of identity information in the same print area. In particular, with the printer and sensor of Tabata et al acting independently, the printer and the sensor will not be aware of what portions of the page would constitute the same print area.

Irrespective of this, no such physical arrangement that would allow printing of document information and sensing of identity information, whilst the print area is on a single print area path, is taught or suggested in Tabata et al. Therefore Tabata et al does not recite any limitation on the arrangement that would allow printing and sensing of information on a print area which is provided on a common print path.

In fact Tabata et al at best merely indicating that a scanner and printer may be provided in a common housing, and we submit that such an arrangement would use a different print area path from the printer and the scanner.

As far as Dymetman is concerned there is nothing to teach or suggest a printer which senses and prints on the same media. There is also nothing to suggest the now claimed arrangement.

In view of the amendments, similar amendments have been made to independent apparatus claim 19.

We also note that the requirement for the print area path is already included in claim 37 and we therefore respectfully submit that this is novel and inventive as it stands.

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In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and claim rejections have been successfully traversed and addressed. The amendments do not involve adding any information that was not already disclosed in the specification, and therefore no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims 1 to 61, and the application as a whole with these claims, are allowable, and a favourable reconsideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

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